(c) In a liberalised environment the extent of capacity utilization of steel plants depends on market forces. The public sector units of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) are operating at over 100% capacity utilization with the present level of work force.

Steel production

†607. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set a target to instal the 110 million tonnes capacity of steel production in the country by the year 2020;

(b) if not, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the assessment with regard to requirement of steel in the country by the said period has also been made;

(d) if so, the assessment of the same; and

(e) the additional capital investment required to invest the said production capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) the steel sector was deregulated, delicenced and decontrolled in 1991-92. Thereafter, the market determines production targets and investment decisions in the steel sector. Nonetheless, it has been estimated that in order to become self reliant and globally competitive in the steel sector the country would require indigenous production of over 100 million tonnes steel per annum by 2020 from the 2004 level of 35 million tonnes.

(e) In order to achieve the goal of over 100 million tonnes of steel production by 2019-20, it is estimated that the industry would need fresh capital to the tune of Rs. 230,000 crore. In addition funds would also be required for technological upgradation of the existing facilities.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.